of aircraft will take place from September, 2008 to February 2012; and (iv) B737-800 - This is a standard body short haul new generation aircraft configured with all economy configuration. Delivery of aircraft will take place from December, 2006 to October, 2009.

Provision has already been made by Air India for the maintenance and overhaul facility and training infrastructure. Besides, M/s Boeing have also agreed to provide Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facilities for Boeing aircraft in India.

(c) Induction of modem new generation aircraft is expected to result inoperational cost savings mainly on account of lower fuel consumption and maintenance costs. Air India will deploy these aircraft for non-stop services to USA and on South Eastern/Gulf-Middle East and European sectors.

Pilots in Alliance Air

1473. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHIR ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of pilots and other trained staff like engineers have left the Alliance Air which has adversely affected the services of the company;

(b) if so, the number of persons who resigned from Alliance Air during the last two years;

(c) what is the existing strength of pilots in the Alliance Air and how many of them are in position at present; and

(d) the steps taken to retain the experienced persons in the Alliance Air and with what result?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHR PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The number of pilots and technical personnel who have resigned from the services of Alliance Air since January, 2004 till date is 91 and 97 respectively.

(c) There are 25 Commanders, including 7 Expatriate Pilots and 38 Co-Pilots (including trainees) available with Alliance Air as on 28.02.2006.

(d) In an effort to retain the experianced persons in Alliance Air, their wages and perks have been revised and career progression planned. However, the efforts have not been very fruitful as pilots often get attracted to better pay and perks offered by other airlines.